

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction



Remember Our Troops

# P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

## AT WORK



## Hartford CC Says Goodbye to a Devout Legend

Many have passed through the doors of the Hartford Correctional Center and most, if not all of them have encountered Counselor Supervisor Donna Hoffman. She began as a volunteer in 1978, shortly after the facility opened. Rumor has it that she was at the facility so often, that they finally offered her a job. In 1988 she became a permanent correctional employee.

Her name was legendary throughout the agency. She had many names such as "The Nun", "Sister", or "Sister D"; titles didn't matter because whatever name you called her, she always answered. When asked how he felt about her retiring Warden Lee stated, "Whenever we had a question, we knew we could count on her to provide us with the right answer."



Continued on Page 3, See *Devout Legend*

Warden Charles Lee says farewell to Counselor Supervisor Donna Hoffman

## From the Commissioner

I would like to address an issue that has become of increasing concern for our agency, especially considering the economic constraints that the State of Connecticut again finds itself having to operate within. At a time in our history when our inmate population continues to gradually decline, and although our staffing has increased with two recent



classes, our departmental overtime has grown significantly and is contributing to a substantial deficit. A primary factor that has contributed to our use of overtime is the high utilization of staff sick time. Let me state that I fully appreciate the necessity of sick time and its appropriate usage. But I also must expect that use of this time will be in accordance with Administrative Directive 2.11, Employee Dependability. The statistics on average sick time leave me no choice but to question how this time is being used in some instances.

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## Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration

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About and for  
correctional  
professionals

February 13 - 26,  
2005

# Supervisor Class Graduation

On February 17th, Supervisor Class #18 was introduced to an assembly of friends, family and colleagues at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. Due to its large number, the class of 67 newly promoted supervisors had to be divided into two groups. The distinguished graduate for Group A was Jonathan Nash



Commissioner Theresa Lantz administers the oath to Supervisor Class #18

The following is an alphabetical listing of those who recieved certificates. Congratulations to you all and best of luck in all your future endeavors.

The graduates were:

Lieutenant Tomas Alicea, Jr.  
Lieutenant Robert Ames, II  
Lieutenant Jose Angeles  
Lieutenant John Avery  
Lieutenant Robert Beers  
Lieutenant Christina Bengtson  
Lieutenant John Bernard  
Lieutenant Ronald Black  
Lieutenant Sean Brennan  
Lieutenant Derick Brito  
Lieutenant Noel Brown  
Lieutenant Michael Capellaro  
Lieutenant Gregory Cheverier  
Lieutenant Susan Chinigo  
CS Stephen Clapp

and for Group B, Noel Brown. Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy who addressed the new supervisors said "Never ask your staff to do something that you can not explain or that you would not do yourself. Raise the bar of your expectations of yourself and the employees that you'll be supervising." He urged the graduates "to guard against complacency, to continue to educate themselves, and above all else to be honest."



Lieutenant Noel Brown (R) presents Captain Andrea Knott(L) a plaque of appreciation from Supervisor Class # 18 during the graduation ceremony.

**Pride.**  
*AT*  
**Work**

for  
February 13 - 26,  
2005

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24 Wolcott Hill Road,  
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M. Jodi Rell, Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

Web address:  
[www.ct.gov/doc](http://www.ct.gov/doc)

Public Information  
Office telephone:  
860.692.7780  
fax:  
860.692.7783

# Devout Legend Cont'd

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## Calendar

**March 8** - Although it may seem that winter will go on forever, take heart. Spring will officially greet us on



March 20th. To that end, the Joe Bongiorno DOC Golf League will have an organizational meeting for both last year's members and anyone interested in joining. The meeting will be held on March 8th, weather permitting, at JoAnne's Restaurant on Rt. 190 in Somersville, CT, beginning at 4:30 p.m. For more details call Ed Korza at 860.763.7352 or Larry Soine at 860.763.6391.

**April 22 & 21-** The 9th Annual Melanie Rieger Memorial Conference is scheduled for April 20 & 21 at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. There is a \$10 registration fee for the two-day conference (**DOC employees do not need to submit the registration fee**). Your supervisor must approve attendance. Registration forms are available by contacting Dr. Samuel L. Rieger at [SRIEGER243@att.net](mailto:SRIEGER243@att.net) or 203.756.8080.

The Sister has been a fixture in the Records, Classification and Counseling Units. She admits to liking the fast-paced, ever-changing environment

that the urban center affords. She has been around the system long enough to see the correctional pendulum swing from treatment to custody, back to treatment with a new emphasis on community reintegration.

Although she could never be fully compensated for all the things that she has done over the years, The staff at Hartford CC held a Farewell party in honor of her March 1st retirement. Warden Lee stated, "This woman is a legend. She will be



Officer Angel Medina takes a moment to hug The Sister.

sorely missed." The Sister has no intention of hanging up her habit any time soon.

With many options and abundant energy (which she attributes to her strong faith in God), Instead of pursuing offenders through the halls of HCC, she plans to pursue a degree in Theology.

Thank You, Sister Donna for over 27 years of dedication to the Department of Correction and we wish her well in all her future endeavors.



Captain Michael Davis and Sister Donna at her Farewell party.

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## Commissioner Cont'd

While the average annual usage of sick time by correctional officers in 2000 was 11.09 days a year, it grew to 14.7 days in 2003 and, last year, it further increased to 16.4 days. Again, this is at a time when we have fewer inmates, and more staff. It goes without saying, that filling the posts left vacant by these levels of absences results in substantial overtime expenditures. As a result of these numbers, the agency's Wardens have been asked to more fully scrutinize and address potential 2.11 issues within their facilities. As you may be aware, I directed the Department's Unit Administrators in December, "...to closely monitor and scrutinize the use of all overtime on a daily basis." Additionally, they were informed that, "Only overtime necessary for safety, security, and critical operational functions, i.e., food service, shall be authorized. Exceptions for discretionary overtime, i.e., Counselors, Records, etc., shall require Unit Administrator approval..." I deeply appreciate the efforts that have been made throughout the agency to comply with this memorandum.

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# Graduation Con'td

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Distinguished Graduate for Group A - Lieutenant Jonathan Nash of York CI



Distinguished Graduate for Group B - Lieutenant Noel Brown of Hartford CC

## Congrats



Warden Wayne Choinski and staff of Northern CI offers congratulations to Counselor Brian Bouffard and his wife on the birth of their son Riley Bouffard. Riley was born on Saturday, February 12, 2005 weighing in at 7 lbs. 6 ozs. and 19 ½" in length.

## Seeking Volunteers

Here is an opportunity to assist your co-worker through a difficult time.

The Sexual Harassment Advocacy Response for Employees (SHARE) is accepting applications for volunteers to staff the newly developed SHARE Program.

The SHARE Program provides support to any staff involved in a sexual harassment complaint. Support and interventions are conducted in a safe and confidential environment to promote staff well being. All SHARE members are trained in the dynamics of sexual harassment support.

To become a SHARE team member you must have at least two years of service with the Department of Correction.

Interested staff should submit a letter of interest, resume, two letters of recommendations (one from a supervisor of at least six months,) and your last two performance appraisals.

The application package must be forwarded to Director Robert Jackson in the Affirmative Action office no later than 3/3/05. For more information or questions, please call Beverly Thibeault at 692.7634.

### *Graduate's Continued:*

Lieutenant Dawne Clark  
Lieutenant Ulysses Clifton  
Lieutenant Jan Cuprak  
Lieutenant Paul Defelice  
Lieutenant Nichole Drea  
Lieutenant Wallace Ford  
Lieutenant Michael Fraser  
Lieutenant Charles Fritz  
Lieutenant Eric Gilchrist  
Lieutenant Thomas Glasheen  
CFSS III JoAnn Goode  
Lieutenant Joseph Goudreault  
Lieutenant Marilyn Grant  
Lieutenant Scott Hadlock  
FSM Richard Hamel  
FSS David Hardt  
Lieutenant Gregory Harpin  
Lieutenant Roshell Huddleston  
Lieutenant Robert Judd Jr.  
Lieutenant James Keel  
Lieutenant Laurie Kozak  
Lieutenant Kimberly Lauray  
CFSS III James Martin  
Lieutenant Viveca Martin  
Lieutenant Ned McCormick  
Lieutenant Marilyn McCoy

Lieutenant Jonathan Nash  
Lieutenant Gerard Paré  
Lieutenant Michael Pickett  
Lieutenant David Pina  
Lieutenant Kevin Pterski  
Lieutenant James Pollard Jr.  
CMS Derrick Pommills  
Lieutenant James Reilly  
CFSS III Arthur Rizzo  
Lieutenant Thomas Riordan  
Lieutenant Miguel Rios  
CMS Kevin Rohan  
Lieutenant Timothy Rucker  
Lieutenant Cynthia Scarmozzino  
FSS Scott Schaub  
Lieutenant Todd Sturgeon  
Lieutenant Richard Torres  
CFSS III Edward Welch  
Lieutenant Kevin Whipple  
Lieutenant Brian White  
Lieutenant Scott Whiteley  
Lieutenant Anthony Williams  
Lieutenant Herbert Williams  
Lieutenant Debra Williamson  
Lieutenant Gerald Wood  
Lieutenant William Zesut

# Well Wishes at Brooklyn

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Warden Daniel Martin and the staff at Brooklyn CI held a luncheon in honor of Nurse Barbara Savoie on February 15, 2005. Barbara was promoted to Correctional Head Nurse at Northern CI. Warden Martin presented her with a plaque and spoke about her many outstanding qualities. Staff at Brooklyn wish Barbara well in her new assignment and will miss her presence.

## MVP's:

Aldridge, Scott	CO	BCC
Austin, Howard	CFSS II	BCC
Ballard, Samantha	CO	HCC
Bell, Judy	CO	YCI
Bergin, Thomas	CO	MYI
Bukowski, Andrew	CO	MYI
Capasso, Michael	Capt	BCC
Cardosa, Hilda	Sec I	BCC
Colon, Victor	CO	HCC
Cuevas, Frankie	CO	BCC
Denby, Bruce	CO	MYI
Derosier, Judy	Sec II	YCI
Desouza, Cynthia	Rec Spec	YCI
Erodicti, Anthony	CO	BCC
Etter, Laurie	Assoc Chaplain	YCI
Falcone, Henry	Lt	BCC
Figliola, Edward	Corr Maint Supv	HCC
Godfrey, Eleanor	Corr Indry Supv II	YCI
Harris, Annita	CO	YCI
Jackson, Annie	Sec II	YCI
James, Michael	CO	YCI
Kanios, James	CO	HCC
Lesane, Floyd	CO	MYI
Lukasik, Christine	CO	YCI
Maldonado, Linda	CO	BCC
McCall, Stacy	Clk Typst	BCC
McDonald, Jeffrey	CO	BCC
Neuendorf, Pamela	Sec II	BCC
Nieves, Alba	CO	BCC
Oliveras, Rodrigo	CO	BCC
Ortiz, Carlos	CO	BCC
Phelan, Gary	CO	MYI
Piela, David	CO	YCI
Pratt, Anthony	CO	MYI
Pray, Harry	CO	NCI
Preston, Bobby	CO	MYI
Rivera, Edgardo	CO	BCC
Roach, Caleb	CO	MYI
Roman, Darlene	CO	MYI
Schettino, Dante	CO	BCC
Vega, Phillip	CO	BCC
Velez, Gregorio	CO	HCC
Ware, Leigh	CS	YCI
Ziemka, David	CO	MYI
Zuccalo, James	CO	NCI

## Did you know?

*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This week's issue was submitted by John Rogers who can be reached at 860-692-7560. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860-692-7554.*



### Why Compost?

There is nothing trite in saying that human society must learn how to live in balance with the earth. This is particularly true regarding human waste disposal. Our municipal waste disposal services now do a fair job of recycling metal, glass and paper. However, nothing is done to recycle organic waste and this is the easiest waste to recycle on a domestic level. Recycling the organic household waste into compost allows us to return badly needed organic matter to the soil. In this way, we participate in nature's cycle, and cut down on garbage going into landfills. DOC, like other institutions is proving that composting is economical as well as ecological, since we compost the kitchen waste from our six facilities in the Somers - Enfield area and save the cost of disposal in a land fill.

### Choose A Method?

1. The easier, but slower method (4-6 weeks) is to locate your compost pile outdoors where decomposition will be accomplished by the natural workings of fungi, aerobic bacteria and worms. Start by criss-crossing twigs on the bottom of the pile. This will allow good air flow. Wire fence works well to enclose the compost area.

Continued on Page 6 , See *Did you Know?*

# Corrigan-Radgowski EOQ's

Warden Michael Lajoie of Corrigan-Radgowski CC is pleased to announce Officer Mark Millette and Mail Handler John McKeever as the Employee's of the Quarter. "Officer Millette is a true professional, always willing to assist his fellow staff members," said the EOQ committee. "Mail Handler McKeever has proven his commitment to the agency by providing exceptional service with an emphasis on safety and security," said his peers. Congratulations to both staff members.



Correction Officer Mark Millette

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## Around the cell block



**Maine-** A state inmate has been charged with applying for and receiving \$1200 in tax and rent rebates for two of the years she was in prison.



**Michigan-** In an effort to save \$250,000 this year, inmates will no longer get free coffee after March first.



**London-** The city's new Police Commissioner is considering confining inmates on ships anchored in the Thames River to reduce crowding.



**New York-** The town of Ossining wants to open a museum inside Sing Sing Prison which still houses 1,750 maximum-security inmates.

## Did you know?, Cont'd

2. A faster (3 weeks) method utilizes handmade or manufactured containers. If kept sheltered from the weather (temperatures between 40 and 80 F), the worms will remain active all year long,
3. Worms may be obtained from a neighboring compost or manure pile or purchased from this web site: <http://www.happydranch.com/wormbins.html> Use two pounds of worms (roughly 2000) for each weekly pound of waste you produce.

### Choose a Container:

The containers should be between eight and twelve inches deep. Several smaller containers provide an alternative to one large (and heavy) box being easier to lift and move.

Generally, the containers need to have 1/4 - 1/2 inch holes in the bottom for aeration and drainage so that the worms do not drown. The containers also need to be covered to maintain an even amount of moisture and to provide darkness. If the worms are located indoors, a sheet of dark plastic or burlap sacking placed loosely on top of the bedding will serve this purpose.

### Mix the Ingredients:

**Bedding:** Leaves, Grass Clippings, Small Twigs, Prunings, Straw, Sawdust and Shredded Newspaper

**Waste:** Coffee Grounds, Manure, Wood Chips, Fruit & Vegetable Waste and Eggshells

Weigh the amount of waste you produce in one week then plan your area to provide one square foot of surface for each pound of waste you produce. Obtain a container of the appropriate size then fill it about three-quarters full of moistened bedding and worms

Continued on Page 7, See *Did you Know?*

## Fundraiser

The Easter Seals & Rehabilitation Center is having a Volleyball Fundraiser on March 18 - 20, 2005 at Trinity College in Hartford. The Affirmative Action Unit is playing on Saturday, March 19, 2005 and would like to challenge other teams. The purpose of this event is to raise funds for people with disabilities or that have been in an accident and also to have fun. The entry fee is \$200 per team. If you do not have a team but would like to play, please call Claire Williams at 860-692-7593.



# From the Troops

*The following correspondence was received from Lt Jeffrey Supernant of Osborn CI, who is currently deployed overseas:*

Hello to all staff. I have been really busy lately. I had hoped to have pictures of the elections to send, but am sorry to say I do not. The majority of us stayed on our bases on election day due to safety concerns. I do have a picture of myself and Paul Comesanas who is a special agent with our unit and a Connecticut State Trooper assigned to the Bridgeport Barracks. We are getting ready to hit the road on a convoy to another base that falls under the agents' jurisdiction. The other pictures I thought the K-9 unit would like; the dogs are used for explosives detection at the main gate to our base camp. Well, take care, Jeff



(L-R) Jeff Supernant and CSP Trooper Paul Comesanas

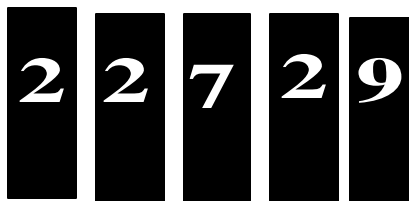


(Above) K-9's assist our troops in Iraq detecting explosives.

# From the Commissioner Cont'd

The Department of Correction is continuing to utilize smarter and more cost-effective correctional policies to insure we get the most out of the funding we are allotted. I would ask that we also continue to do all we can personally to reduce unnecessary spending and serve the citizens of our state in a fiscally responsible and prudent manner.

**Supervised  
Population  
on February 23,  
2005**



On February 23, 2004 the population was 22,827.

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## Did you know?, Cont'd

To avoid fly and smell problems, always bury the food waste by pulling aside some of the bedding, dumping the waste, and then cover it up with the bedding again. Bury successive loads in different locations in the bin. Stir the pile every couple of weeks to speed up the process. Add water now and then to keep moist. Add a couple of handfuls of sand or soil to provide necessary grit for the worm's digestion of food. The result will be a rich additive for gardens, potted plants or for mulching around trees or shrubs.

### Further Reading?

Clive A. Edwards. Chair of the Department of Entomology at the Ohio State University, is doing the most advanced research into the area of soil ecology and vermiculture. He has published extensively on soil ecology, environmental toxicology, and sustainable agriculture, and he is currently recognized as a world authority on earthworms. His book "Ecology and Biology of Earthworms," now in its 3rd edition, is the first comprehensive book on earthworms since Charles Darwin's "The Production of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Earthworms".



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